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BIRMINGHAM 9.15 a.m.-7.02 a.m.

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SUNDAY - APRIL 5, 1942

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FOR HAIR HYGIENE

All good things are scarce, but limited supplies are available at your usual chemist or store.

THE HARLENE LTD.,
10, South St., London, W.C.1.

World Awaits Greatest Clash In History As Vast Armies Spar For Position In Russia

THE BATTLE OF THE BURMA JAPS RULE THE AIR AS OUR TROOPS FALL BACK

MORE JAP. NAVAL LOSSES
One Cruiser Sunk: Another Torpedoed

New York, Saturday. THE U.S. Navy Department announced tonight that a Japanese light cruiser has been sunk by United States submarines in the vicinity of Christmas Island (Christmas Island is situated about 250 miles S.W. of Java).

The announcement adds that another Japanese light cruiser is believed to have been sunk by a U.S. submarine in the same vicinity. Five other Japanese ships have been damaged by torpedoes in the same vicinity. Today's figures bring the total of enemy ships of all types sunk or damaged or otherwise affected by U.S. submarines since the Pearl Harbor attack to 48.

The text of the communication Southwest Pacific Area (1) reports reports indicate that the following damage has been inflicted on enemy ships by U.S. submarines operating in waters in the Java Sea and the Indian Ocean:

(a) One light cruiser sunk in the vicinity of Christmas Island.

(b) One light cruiser damaged in the vicinity of Christmas Island by a direct torpedo hit and the following Japanese light cruiser hit by a direct torpedo hit which is believed to have resulted in her sinking.

(c) Two seaplane tenders damaged near the Island of Bali. One supply ship damaged in waters near Lombok Island off the eastern tip of Java in the Indian Ocean.

(d) In the vicinity of Bali one transport and our unidentified ship damaged by one torpedo each.

(e) The above damage to the enemy has not been reported in any Japanese Navy Department communique.

(f) Nothing to report from other areas.

A Navy Department communication issued on the Japanese U.S. Navy since the Pearl Harbor attack gives a total of 132, including 54 were warships and 70 non-combatant vessels—Huller.

HITLER HAS KILLED "5,000,000 SLAVS"

Opening the second all-Soviet session in Moscow, Lev Glazov, the President of the Soviet Union, said last night that the Soviet Union have been killed by Hitler in the last 18 months. He said that the Soviet Union will deal a mortal blow to the Hitlerites, he declared.

Burma Japs Rule
The Air As Our Troops Fall Back

LACK of air support, which cost the Allies Norway, Crete, Malaya and Java, is compelling our troops to fall back in Burma, where the Japs are now about 100 miles from the oilfields.

While the Japs yesterday were boasting that our Air Force in Burma had been almost annihilated, a communique from General Blomley admitted that our troops withdrawing from Promé suffered heavy casualties in severe air attacks.

Reports from the fighting front show that our failure to hold Promé was due in large measure to the lack of reconnaissance planes to spot enemy movements.

The withdrawal of our covering force from Promé proceeded satisfactorily on Friday, states the communique. The enemy followed up hard, but were successfully dealt with.

Monday was bombed heavily on Friday morning, the communique adds. No military damage was caused, though a hospital caught fire and the patients had to be moved to safety.

JAPS BIGGEST WORRY

The Tokyo communique made no reference to the land fighting, but stated:

"On March 21 to 31, Japanese Army planes destroyed 10 enemy planes in Burma, as well as enemy military installations."

"These planes consisted mainly of machines sent from England and the Near East to strengthen the Burma front. Their destruction means that the enemy air force in Burma has been nearly annihilated."

The greatest Jap worry at the moment appears to be for the continued maintenance of their sea supremacy.

A considerable part of their cruiser strength has already been crippled, and yesterday came news that yet another cruiser had been set on fire at Port Blair in the Andaman Islands.

The warship was hit by American torpedoes, according to reports from India. The bombers in addition set a transport on fire and probably damaged two other vessels.

This was announced in the first communique issued from U.S. air headquarters in New Delhi.

The bombers would have had to travel at least 900 miles to their objective. All of them returned.

SEAPLANE DOWN OFF PORTUGAL

Lisbon, Saturday. A British seaplane crashed into the sea today off the coast of Portugal, near Cap Azar, according to reports reaching Lisbon.

The crew are reported to be safe.

OUR MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

THE world awaits news of the coming titanic death grapple between two mighty military machines on the Russian front, the evidence is mounting that current operations are preliminaries to the all-out struggle pending between the Soviet forces and Hitler's armies.

At present the Battle of the Bases is being waged—key-towns which the Germans must hold if they are to launch effectively their most-vaunted spring offensive.

The Russians, attacking with fury, have already imperilled some of these vital bases—rail and road junctions like Orel, Vyasma, Bryansk and Kharkov.

Nazi counter-attacks are growing in strength. "Keep these towns defend them to the last," is the order of Hitler's High Command.

The two vast armies, each with millions of reserves ready, appear to be searching out weak spots before launching the full might of their offensive.

Stalin has been training for months now great new armies whose task it will be to hold and try to contain the Nazi reserves for which Hitler has combined Germany and the Axis states of Europe.

Speculation grew in the belligerent capitals yesterday as to which of the Armies—Red or Nazi—would try to smash through in a total offensive.

COUNTER-ATTACKS

IN LONDON it was stated authoritatively that the Germans were counter-attacking hard to try to keep the important towns they hold.

IN WASHINGTON it was pointed out that despite the injury of the Russian counter-attack during the winter Hitler's main bases for an offensive in the south so far remain in his hands.

But that despite the heavy punishing the Germans have had there is no indication that their strength is materially weakened.

Military circles in the U.S. capital consider that by the end of April conditions in the Southern front, where at present the fighting is great because of the thin, well-equipped forces, are propitious for large-scale campaigning.

BOTH SPARRING

There is also a feeling in Washington that Japan may launch an attack on Siberia simultaneously with the German offensive.

IN BERLIN a German High Command spokesman referred to repeated Russian attacks, supported by tanks, on the frontier front—another indication that the two armies are sparring for position.

IN MOSCOW the Soviet communique, released as usual reported no substantial gains of points for each consumer from 20 to 24 for the four-week period.

What's The Weather Like Up There, Chaps?



ST. OMER BATTLE
Five Enemy Planes Down, We Lose 11

FIERCE battles between Spitfires and Nazi fighters filled the sunlit sky above St. Omer, Northern France, and the Channel yesterday.

Five enemy machines were shot down and many more damaged, and 11 RAF fighters were missing as the Squadrons skimmed home across the sea.

But they accomplished their main job for the bombers they were escorting to attack railways near St. Omer completed the job and returned without loss.

There was great RAF activity over the Channel during the day. As some RAF formations flew back over the Kent coast, others roared out towards the Continent.

At almost a one-stop service, and one observer.

Supplies To China By New Air Line

Large American-built transport planes will soon carry essential war materials from India to China, and they will be able to handle a tonnage of supplies.

The announcement said that work was progressing on two overland roads from India to China, one of which was expected to be ready within a month.

Both traverse a region notorious for rain from May to October, but the routes will be water-proofed, A.P.

Wavell Makes Defence Offer To India Party Leaders

General Wavell will also lay the matter only this week before Mr. Jinnah, the Moslem League leader.

THE NEW BRITAIN, AFTER THE WAR, WILL BE PURGED OF MISERY AND CLASS PRIVILEGE

Leisure, Work, And Ages For All

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
AFTER our sailors, soldiers and airmen have smashed the Axis they will resume life in the New Britain, and find in that life practical expression of the things for which they fought.

Plans now being considered by a special sub-committee of the Cabinet provide for sweeping changes in the whole economic, social and cultural structure of the nation.

Those plans will apply to everyone, civilians and soldiers alike, and will stamp out many of the injustices and inequalities of pre-war Britain.

Life in the New Britain will mean the end of class privilege, economic security for all, and guaranteed jobs for ex-servicemen. Main features of the Cabinet's plans, which are now in an advanced stage of consideration, are:

No more Class Privilege: Reform of the House of Lords will put an end to hereditary legislators. The Chamber will become a sort of Senate, with members drawn from industry, science and men in public life.

Economic Security For All: Every man, woman and child in Britain shall be assured of adequate food, housing and clothing. There will be allowances for children, before old-age pensions, and increased health and unemployment benefits. Injured workers will receive pensions, and better provision will be made for widows.

Work Schemes: Shorter Hours: Vast schemes of national reconstruction requiring millions of workers for years to come are being drawn up.

There will be a GUARANTEE THAT NO EX-ARMY, NAVY, OR AIR FORCE MAN WILL STAND IN NEED OF A JOB. Working hours will be so arranged that all ex-servicemen will be able to find work in their own trades or professions.

Educational Opportunity: "Privilege" in the nation's educational system will end, and every child of promise, irrespective of the financial status of his parents, will have open to him public schools, secondary schools, universities and technical schools.

Such schools as Eton and Harrow will, of course, continue to have to take a percentage of working-class boys.

Youth Training For Services: All able-bodied youths will be compelled to do a period of training in the Navy, Army or Air Force. During this period they will be paid on a basis comparable to that of their civilian life.

"Sandhurst" idea will disappear. The Queen's School of Cavalry and the Royal Military Academy will be merged into one institution, to be known as the "Sandhurst" idea will disappear.

CANADA'S FUND FOR BOMBED: Ottawa, Saturday. The Queen's Canadian Forces Air Raid Victims received the first million dollars (£200,000) today—just one year after its establishment.

The fund, which was set up by the Lord Mayor of London's Fund.

Meanwhile President Roosevelt has thrown in his weight in the effort to reach agreement on a personal representative, Col. Louis Johnson, has brought to India a personal letter to an unnamed Indian leader—believed to be the Pandit Nehru.

Sir Stafford Cripps was Col. Johnson's representative in India yesterday as well as General Wavell.

Gandhi left New Delhi for Wardha today, a deputy he appointed man. He said he would live his message of non-violence and observe strict silence—Reuter and B.P.

Britain And Italy Agree
OUR WOUNDED COMING HOME

A NUMBER of seriously wounded British soldiers who fought in the Middle East and were captured by the Italians are now on their way home. Wounded Italians are also on their way back to Italy. The wounded men were taken yesterday to the Turkish port of Smyrna in hospital ships. There they will be transferred and the journey to their homelands begun.

This was revealed yesterday, when it was officially announced in London that some sick and wounded Imperial prisoners in Italian hands and Italians in our hands are to be repatriated and that the repatriation began yesterday.

TURKS HELP
The exchange will be carried out under the supervision of the Turkish Red Crescent, working in collaboration with the International Red Cross.

Our men will be those who have been in hospitals and convalescent homes after operations in the Middle East.

The Italians to be repatriated will be far more numerous than Imperial prisoners, as the British Empire has more prisoners than Italy.

Under the Geneva Convention, prisoners of war who have been examined by an independent medical commission and found to be seriously ill or seriously wounded are entitled to be repatriated.

Certain categories of non-combatant personnel (known as prisoners of conscience) are similarly repatriated.

Britain and Italy have accepted the principle that only those protected personnel who could be repatriated to their own countries as fellow-prisoners of war should be repatriated.

The independent medical commissions are continuing their work for each side, and the British Government intends to continue the repatriation of prisoners of conscience with the Italian Government on the same lines as have been followed in this operation.

WIN £10 IN DEFENCE BONDS FOR SOAP SAVING HINTS



MIRRO
The amazing new "NEVER-SCRATCH" CLEANSER

As millions of women already know, Mirro is perfect for cleaning pots and pans, sinks and baths. It's the only cleanser that doesn't scratch. But more and more housewives are now using Mirro for ordinary soap-and-water jobs, too. It's the only cleanser that doesn't scratch. It's the only cleanser that doesn't scratch. It's the only cleanser that doesn't scratch.

Try Mirro instead of soap for your soap-and-water cleaning jobs. You'll see just how much soap you can save. Then send us on a postcard your ideas on how to save soap by doing the job with Mirro. We offer £10 in Defence Bonds for what we consider the most useful suggestion. Here's your chance to win £10 and help the Nation too!

NO COUPONS NEEDED FOR MIRRO.

THOMAS HEDLEY & CO. LTD., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE

Allied Counter-Action

AS THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE MODIFIED NAZI SPRING PLAN IS EXPOSED, POSSIBLE ALLIED COUNTER-ACTION IS HARDLY GUESS WORK ANY LONGER, THOUGH OBVIOUSLY FURTHER DETAILS MAY NOT BE DISCUSSED, BUT IT MAY SAFELY BE SAID THAT NOT FOR NOTHING HAVE WE RISKED SO MUCH IN THE FAR EAST, EVEN THE LOSS OF SINGAPORE, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE MIDDLE EAST.

HITLER REACHES MOST CRITICAL STAGE OF WAR

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

AFTER preparing the Reich for a possible late start of the much promised spring offensive, Nazi home propaganda is now hinting that it has been found advisable to canalise the thrust within narrower limits than were first planned. Hitler would have given much to hide this confession of weakness under continued Russian assaults, but the admission has been wrenched from him.

First having been fobbed off by excuses for his failures in Russia, and then cajoled to fight and work through the winter by categorical promises of victory on the frontier, the German masses are reacting under a new wave of doubt which is causing their leaders considerable anxiety.

This is the latest addition to the string of Red lights now warning Hitler against any offensive which is not an immediate and complete success, and I am told that the Nazi High Command are unable to guarantee that success.

In some quarters this has been interpreted to mean that Hitler has reached his most critical stage of the war and is so precariously placed that he may topple over more suddenly than is now thought likely.

The heavy drain on his spring offensive reserves to see him through winter, yet all his efforts have failed to do more than slow down the Russian advance without in any way easing the weight of Russian pressure.

Simultaneously he is also being steadily pressed down by the ever-deepening snow both through his increasing losses and their repercussions throughout occupied Europe.

NAZI BLUFF

HAS FAILED—The position of a speculator who, having counted his chickens before they were hatched, is reduced to gambling his future prospects to redeem his past losses—literally he has mortgaged due hopes to next March's despair.

STALIN, however, is too much to the realist to be caught out that way and will certainly not let the opportunity to foreclose on this metaphorical dead-end. He refuses to be diverted from his main task of smashing Hitler's main bases wherever they might be used as a stepping-stone to an offensive and to annihilate as much of the Nazi armies as possible in the process.

All Nazi attempts to bluff Stalin elsewhere have also failed. In the "East" Hitler is being pushed to his water end to counter the practical certainty that Stalin has planned a spring offensive of his own—on a scale with a considerably greater and more powerful strength than Hitler can hope to raise, and with the possibility that the Russians will be able to spring the surprise of being able to give Anglo-U.S.A. help, of matching Hitler both in planes and tanks.

INFORMATION I have received includes me to summarise the immediate future under these broad outlines: (1) Hitler will not attempt to strike his line from Gerd to the North Sea, but will concentrate on the offensive to make his

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

BEAUTY

answers the call...

But... loading up luggage won't spoil that **Schoolgirl Complexion** Your yearn-time job won't affect your beauty if you do as you did in peace-time—entrust it care to Palsolive. For the rich, creamy, oil-free texture of Palsolive, which is the secret of its success. That is why it gives you a natural beauty treatment from head to toe. Keep your "schoolgirl complexion" all over.

PALSLIVE

New National Standard Size 34d. Including Tax. Some shops may still have stocks of old size of 34d.

PART-TIME
WAR-WORK
AT SEVENTY

£5,000,000,000 Austerity Budget

ANY TAXES GOING P

As Clear As Butter!

WOMAN: Women are not the enigmas men think they are. Woo them in the right way and they are as pliable as butter.

Wife: When my baby was born with black hair I felt sorry for him, my husband said "Yes, I thought a boy had black hair, too, but in a few years he became blonde."

Husband: I compliment myself on being quick. The other night, when my wife drew my attention to rouge on my cheeks, I said "Yes, I have just met my mother," she uses rouge.

Husband: When my wife said that the night I had mentioned the name "Nan," I said "Yes, I thought I was going to be again saying with my grandmother."

Husband: "I set out with the intention of making my wife the most perfect of women, but she hasn't proved an apt pupil."

Wife: I promised my husband, but I made the provision that his orders must be agreeable to me.

CONVOY AH-OY!

Seamen's Thanks To R.N.

FROM THE SEAMEN OF THE ATLANTIC TO THE SAVIOURS OF THE CONVOY—OUR GRATITUDE AND THANKS.

This simple message on behalf of his mates to the men of the Royal Navy was given me yesterday by a merchant ship's fireman who has just completed the long non-stop voyage from Dutch Guiana in safety.

"The trip might have been made in peace time," he added, "day after day we expected to fight off at least one bombing attack, to be involved in at least one U-boat battle. We were not."

"Thanks to our screen of corvettes and destroyers we got through unscathed."

"We came home with a full cargo of sugar. The other ships in the convoy were in good luck, stacked with foodstuffs and war supplies."

"We would have made excellent targets, but we did not see the enemy once throughout that long voyage."

"Surely a striking tribute to the courage and efficiency of the toughest little warships in the world. In them the R.N. seems to have met his match."

"So from the men in the Atlantic convoys to the men in the U-boat Navy convey our grateful thanks!"

STAGE THANKS
Mr. G. Rhodes Parry, who for eight years was general manager of the London Palladium, and as now at the Imperial Theatre, Brighton, was invited by special licence to Miss Nina Handley last night to sing the following:

ADVERTISER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOU'VE HAD SOMETHING WORTH DRINKING WHEN YOU'VE HAD A GUINNESS

These towns, hard hit because of the war, think that the burden should be spread over the country as a whole. "They want a grant from the Exchequer to enable them to fix their rates at a figure that is not out of proportion to the rates prevailing in other districts."

Unless they get this aid, some of them fear that they may not be able to maintain their essential services.

Towards the £13,000,000 that has been demanded, the Minister has so far granted £10,000 to forty-one towns and cities.

400 NAZI HOSPITAL TRAINS A MONTH
The German-controlled Oslo Radio yesterday declared that between 400 and 500 trains a month for the Russian front and wounded from the front pass through Königsberg (East Prussia) every month.

SWEDEN'S COLD SNAP
Sweden is experiencing a cold spell and Stockholm is registering 47 degrees of frost (says Vichy).

MORE BABIES BORN
BIRTHS in England and Wales during the three months ended December 31 numbered 15,106, the highest total for any December quarter since 1931.

The birth-rate was 12.9 a thousand in the fourth quarter since 1936.

During the whole of last year, however, the number of births was the lowest since 1933, the total being 468,778 (28,251 a quarter) in 1940. The rate of 14.2 compares with 14.6 for 1940 and 14.9 for 1939.

For the whole of 1941, deaths in England and Wales averaged 54,681 a week, compared with 54,681 a week of 46,894 compared with 1940.

WELCOME SPRING!
Spring! I know you're longing for it this year. To forget the winter of last Winter; to stretch your limbs afresh; to sense the vigor of Spring in your blood; to feel the sun again; these have been your desires throughout the long Winter blackout.

But to enjoy Spring to the full you must rid your system of Winter toxins. Start with this simple treatment, and life will have a clear hand and bright eyes.

Just buy a bottle of 'Milk of Magnesia' today. Start with this simple treatment, and life will have a clear hand and bright eyes.

There is one sure way to rid your system of these Winter acids. Take a few doses of 'Milk of Magnesia'—the brand of antacid which Doctors use to deal with excess acid. It will cleanse your blood, banish sluggishness and add a new zest to life. You and your system will have a new meaning for life.

MILK OF MAGNESIA
"Milk of Magnesia" 1 lb and 2 1/2 lb (Trade Size). Also 1/2 lb and 1/4 lb (Wholesale). Price 1/6 and 1/4 respectively. (See advertisement for full particulars.)

MILK OF MAGNESIA
"Milk of Magnesia" is the most powerful purgative preparation of Magnesia.

BUT it can be stated that each stage of Hitler's modifications of his original plan has been toothed by the Allies and completely exposed.

We have, too, the inconsiderable advantage of knowing that his mistakes are changing, but he is forced on him as a result of his mistakes into changing his free choice, and I am not afraid to suggest that in a few weeks he will have paid yet another and perhaps the greatest price for these errors—a price which will bring him to the verge of bankruptcy.

A volunteer back in '37, and with 3 years' service in the last war, this seven-years-old commercial traveller puts in his spare (1) time in a war factory. Here he is weighing ammunition.

PRICE CONTROL FOR MEALS
Plan To Foil Guzzlers

SPECIAL TO "THE PEOPLE"

LORD WOOLTON is considering a plan to foil the "guzzlers" and accounts from his staff of advisers are drawing up menus and reports for his consideration.

The idea is that a maximum price should be fixed for all meals served in cafes, hotels and restaurants.

Reports show that it is in these places that the chief "guzzling" is going on.

Meals taken in the home—whether of a laborer or a millionaire—are generally moderate.

In the humble home, money considerations make that the man in the luxury home the rich man—like to "eat unparliamentarily."

But in the hotels and restaurants there is a large amount of over-eating. Some of these "hotel guzzlers" are black marketeers, war profiteers and other unpleasant characters.

But some also are well-known public figures. So the Minister is trying to devise a scale of charges, and make over-eating impossible.

The only way anyone will be able to get more than their share of food after that will be by going on a "crave" and making a nuisance of themselves, and even this form of guzzling will eventually be dealt with and made impossible.

AND SO THEY MULTIPLY!
BERLIN RADIO LAST NIGHT CLAIMED THAT THE TOTAL RUSSIAN LOSSES IN KILLED, CAPTURED AND PRISONERS AMOUNT TO NEARLY 20,000,000 MEN.

The Russian losses in the first three months of this year, however, are estimated at the total number of Russian prisoners taken since the outbreak of war was 3,216,293.

The huge efforts of the Soviets to break through the German lines on the Eastern Front have been rewarded with immense losses in men and material, asserted the Radio.

The impetus of the Soviet forces is already decreasing," B.U.P.

deperate but vitally urgent drive in the south to break the Anglo-Russian line in Iran and the Caucasus;

(2) Stalin will seek equal developments (a) to prevent that stabilization, (b) to maintain and increase the Russian strategic hold, (c) to relieve Leningrad, and (d) to intensify the winter Soviet aim of destroying Hitler's armies;

(3) Moscow's attacks to anticipate Hitler's drive to the Caucasus are sharpening. As the results show that the Nazis attempt to anticipate Timoshenko, but might prove to be a greater battle than the battle of Moscow, a sharpening between Kharkov and the Crimea—and Timoshenko, with good reason, is confident of his ability to win it.

(4) As these developments and Hitler's other troop concentrations expose the general outline of the Russian spring plan, possible Allied counter-action is hardly possible further details may not be discussed. BUT IT MAY SAFELY BE SAID THAT NOT FOR NOTHING HAVE WE RISKED SO MUCH IN THE FAR EAST, EVEN THE LOSS OF SINGAPORE, IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN OUR MIDDLE EAST FRONT.

(5) Hitler's round-the-clock reinforcements to Malta to cover big-scale reinforcements to Rommel in Libya stresses his scheme to use the greatest effort to immobilise Axis's army, even if it is impossible to break through; and

(6) The crux of Hitler's canalised plan is to force the Allies to face both ways east in Russia and west in Libya, and while they are concentrating on each job, to smash through the centre, if necessary through Turkey, directly against the middle of the front by way of Syria, Cyprus or even Egypt itself.

ALDERMEN WHO JOB-RACKETEERING
BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOB-RACKETEERING among aldermen and councillors must be stopped, it is the Government by a powerful group of M.P.s.

There have been hundreds of cases recently, and "urgency" of war-time requirements" has usually been the excuse.

It is the Government's duty to ensure that the ordinary members of the public, or of the Government and municipal administrative services, could not be so easily deceived.

Among the jobs in question are local food controllers, local food officials, and A.R.P. controllers.

Some of these jobs are part-time and worth only a few pounds a week. Others are worth £700 a week, and are full-time jobs.

In some cases the alderman or councillor has resigned from his office in order to take on the job, but not always.

The Government is to be told that "it is not in the best interests and traditions of local government that elected representatives should take these posts," and it will be asked to take the necessary action to terminate this undesirable practice.

M.P.s To Challenge Mr. Morrison
BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, Minister of Home Security, is to be challenged, when Parliament reassembles, over his action in sacking Sir Warren Fisher.

Coming so closely on top of his threat to suppress the "Daily Express" in his action against the mind of some M.P.s the fear that his attitude is getting too much for them.

It is probable that a motion will be moved in the House of Commons, Mr. Morrison's ministerial salary.

It is too early to say whether such a motion would be carried. Most probably it would not.

The excuse often that Mr. Morrison's action were open to question, so also was that of Sir Warren Fisher.

They take the view that, in an emergency, the Civil Defence machinery must be such that there is complete loyalty and co-operation between the Minister of Home Security and the Regional Commissioners. They feel in the case of Sir

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT
SIR KINGSLEY WOOD, Chancellor of the Exchequer, is spending Easter putting the finishing touches to his austerity Budget. It is likely to be a stern one.

Expenditure in the coming year will be over £5,000,000,000. So he will give very little away. And he is likely to take more from several classes of the community. Taxation will provide about £2,500,000,000 of the money he needs.

Savings and loans of other kinds will have to provide the other £2,500,000,000.

Thus, both taxation and savings will have to be increased over their current levels.

CONCESSION FOR WIVES
Budget may include: **INCOME TAX**—Standard rate to stay at 10s. 6d. but a number of adjustments to be made.

These will give weekly wage earners the right to pay on current earnings, instead of on the earnings of 12 months ago.

Arrangements may also be made for husbands and wives, who are both earning, to have their incomes assessed separately instead of jointly.

PURCHASE TAX—The scale of taxation on a large range of luxury goods will be reduced, but increased. In some cases it may go up to over 200 per cent.

WINE AND SPIRITS—The taxes on all classes of these will be increased.

TABACCO—Tobacco, snuff and cigarettes will have to bear increased taxation.

ENTERTAINMENT—Tax on cinemas, theatres, horse races, dog races, boxing matches, etc., may be raised.

It may be Sir Kingsley Wood's suggestions that he is going to the House of Lords soon.

Famous Lifeboat Endangered
DESIGNATIONS from the famous Cromer (Norfolk) lifeboat crew which saved 481 lives since the outbreak of war are believed likely following the news that two of the youngest members are shortly to be called up for the Navy.

Boys and David Davis, twenty-year-old cousins, who have accompanied the lifeboat crew on all his epic sea rescues in the past five years, had not received call-up papers yesterday, although it was believed that "orders" were on the way.

If they go it is understood that two other members of the lifeboat crew will resign to replace a whole.

Coxswain Blagden: "We have no one to replace these two men."

Mr. T. H. Baldwin, Cromer lifeboat secretary, commented: "It is desirable that the Cromer station will have to close down for the duration of the war."

KILLED SAVING CONVOY
CASUALTIES in the cruiser Eclipse, during the action in the Barents Sea last Sunday, were British and American convoy ships, and one of the British warships and U-boats, torried of which 32 were killed or died of wounds.

An Admiralty communique today shows that six officers, 18 ratings, and nine Royal Marines (all musicians) on the Trinidad were killed, and one rating died of wounds.

Also killed were Mrs. A. R. King, Mrs. A. A. Bennett, and Mrs. A. Bennett.

Also killed were Mrs. A. Bennett, Mrs. A. Bennett, and Mrs. A. Bennett.

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RECORD SAVINGS!
LAST week's total of £26,133,742 in the War Savings Campaign was the highest ever achieved, being £2,616,680 more than the previous week's record total.

From the sale of Savings Certificates £114,748 was raised; £29,326,110 in Defence Bonds, and £4,782,962 from an increase in the balance due to depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank and Trustee Savings Banks.

Want To Go On The Dole
70 TOWNS ASK STATE GRANT
BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SEVENTY towns and cities want to "go on the dole" and have asked Mr. Ernest Brown, Minister of Health, for financial aid.

Many of them have sent deputations of mayors and town clerks to Whitehall to plead that their application should be granted.

Between them they want £13,000,000.

The arguments they have put before the Minister are:

Because of the war their ratepayers have to bear a heavier burden than is fair—sometimes much bigger than they can afford.

While their own rates have gone up the rates in other districts—which have had an industrial boom brought to them by the war—have gone down.

Reasons for their rates going up are: (a) the cost of the war; (b) the cost of the war; (c) the cost of the war.

These towns, hard hit because of the war, think that the burden should be spread over the country as a whole.

"They want a grant from the Exchequer to enable them to fix their rates at a figure that is not out of proportion to the rates prevailing in other districts."

Unless they get this aid, some of them fear that they may not be able to maintain their essential services.

Towards the £13,000,000 that has been demanded, the Minister has so far granted £10,000 to forty-one towns and cities.

400 NAZI HOSPITAL TRAINS A MONTH
The German-controlled Oslo Radio yesterday declared that between 400 and 500 trains a month for the Russian front and wounded from the front pass through Königsberg (East Prussia) every month.

SWEDEN'S COLD SNAP
Sweden is experiencing a cold spell and Stockholm is registering 47 degrees of frost (says Vichy).

MORE BABIES BORN
BIRTHS in England and Wales during the three months ended December 31 numbered 15,106, the highest total for any December quarter since 1931.

The birth-rate was 12.9 a thousand in the fourth quarter since 1936.

During the whole of last year, however, the number of births was the lowest since 1933, the total being 468,778 (28,251 a quarter) in 1940. The rate of 14.2 compares with 14.6 for 1940 and 14.9 for 1939.

For the whole of 1941, deaths in England and Wales averaged 54,681 a week, compared with 54,681 a week of 46,894 compared with 1940.

WELCOME SPRING!
Spring! I know you're longing for it this year. To forget the winter of last Winter; to stretch your limbs afresh; to sense the vigor of Spring in your blood; to feel the sun again; these have been your desires throughout the long Winter blackout.

But to enjoy Spring to the full you must rid your system of Winter toxins. Start with this simple treatment, and life will have a clear hand and bright eyes.

Just buy a bottle of 'Milk of Magnesia' today. Start with this simple treatment, and life will have a clear hand and bright eyes.

There is one sure way to rid your system of these Winter acids. Take a few doses of 'Milk of Magnesia'—the brand of antacid which Doctors use to deal with excess acid. It will cleanse your blood, banish sluggishness and add a new zest to life. You and your system will have a new meaning for life.

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